The Commonweal

A Weekly Review of Literature, The Arts and Public Affairs

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BLACK OF ALABAMA

"I NOMINATE Hugo L. Black of Alabama to be an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States."

This startling presidential message was delivered to the Senate on August 12. Senator Ashurst promptly asked unanimous consent to consider the message at once. Senator Johnson immediately objected, thereby shattering a senatorial precedent to confirm without reference to committee the nomination of any member to any office upon the theory that no amount of investigation by a committee could possibly disclose any new light on the character, attainments and ability of one of its own members.

"In this particular case," Senator Ashurst declared, "I cannot conceive how the President could have made a wiser selection than the one he has made."

Senator Burke asserted that the present occasion was unique in the entire history of the country and hence that the nomination should go to committee for careful study and consideration. The nomination was therefore referred to a subcommittee largely composed of Democratic senators who had advocated the original presidential Court plan.

The country at large expressed grave doubts as to Mr. Black's fitness for membership on the highest tribunal in the land. Emphasis was placed on the fact that he had been the prosecutor, the partizan litigant rather than the calm impartial weigher of opposing arguments. The charge was made that he was one of the most ardent supporters of administration policies and hence that he may be counted upon to vote "Yes" as faithfully on the Supreme Court bench as he has on the floor of the Senate. Reference was also made to the fact that Senator Black has had practically no judicial experience, with the exception of having served for a brief period on the police bench

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in Birmingham. Finally, it was pointed out that Mr. Black has already committed himself on a great many measures he has been appointed to the Court to sustain, and that he has thereby disqualified himself from passing judgment on those cases when they come before the Court.

Alfred A. Cook, chairman of the judiciary committee of the Association of the Bar of the City of New York, sent a telegram to the Senate Judiciary Committee in which he stated that "the members of the legal profession irrespective of party or any differing viewpoint on national policy always unite in the conclusion that anyone selected to sit on the United States Supreme Court must be judicially qualified. It is consequentially essential that there be no haste in the consideration of a nominee and that proper and reasonable opportunity be given to the bar of the country to submit to the Judiciary Committee of the Senate its views as to fitness and qualifications of the nominee. As a member of the bar I refuse to believe that membership in the United States Senate in and of itself qualifies one to occupy any other office and least of all that of a justice of the Supreme Court. Careful and mature deliberation remains vital if the confidence and respect of the nation are to be assured."

Mr. Cook's valuable suggestion received scant consideration. Senator Ashurst's subcommittee speedily approved the nomination by a five to one vote, Senator Austin dissenting. The Judiciary Committee likewise rushed through an approval of the nomination by a thirteen to four vote, Senators King, Burke, Austin and Steiwer dissenting.

Meanwhile attention was centered upon the all-important question raised by Senators Borah and Austin as to whether Mr. Black was eligible, on purely constitutional grounds, to take the Supreme Court post.

It will be recalled that on March 1 of this year Congress enacted the Retirement Bill permitting Supreme Court justices to retire at the age of seventy and receive full pay for life. Did this bill create a new office and, at the same time, increase the emoluments of the office of a Supreme Court justice? Article 1, Section 6 of the Constitution specifically declares: "No senator or representative shall, during the time for which he was elected, be appointed to any civil office under the authority of the United States which shall have been created or the emoluments whereof shall have been increased during such time." Justice Van Devanter was appointed for life. He has not resigned but merely retired from active duty. It may be urged that a retiring justice still retains his office and may be called upon to perform some judicial work. If this be so, Senator Black would not succeed Justice Van Devanter but would become an additional new member of the Court.

As to the second point, it may be argued that the Retirement Bill, by providing for full pay for life, did increase the emoluments of the office of a Supreme Court justice. If this be so, then Senator Black's nomination is not valid. The Attorney General thought otherwise and so informed Mr. Roosevelt. Both the subcommittee and the Judiciary Committee itself brushed aside these objections. But we are by no means convinced that the nomination was "perfectly legal and constitutional in every way." We are by no means convinced that Mr. Roosevelt's choice was a happy one, or that the Judiciary Committee and the Senate pursued a wise course in so rapidly confirming the nomination. During the debate on Senator Bridges's motion to recommit the nomination to the Judiciary Committee, which was defeated by a sixty-six to fifteen vote, Senator Ashurst, in opposing the motion, admitted that there was opposition to Mr. Black within the American Bar Association. Not only did the Judiciary Committee see fit to ignore the legal profession but other representative groups who sought to present pertinent testimony before it.

Following the sixty-three to sixteen vote in the Senate on August 17 to confirm, young Henry Cabot Lodge, jr., issued a statement in which he asserted that he opposed Mr. Black's confirmation on constitutional grounds, which we have already outlined, and because "of my strong conviction that a Supreme Court judge should be tolerant, liberal and judicial in his view of the religious faiths and racial equality of his fellow citizens. Not a shred of evidence was advanced to remove the cloud of doubt concerning Senator Black's attitude on these fundamentals."

The faith and confidence of the American people in our democratic institutions has in no way been strengthened by this appointment and confirmation. We can only express the sincere hope that Mr. Black, in daily association with experienced members of our highest tribunal, will soon acquire that judicial temperament which has been so noticeably lacking in his Senate career.

Week by Week

The Trend of Events

PARLIAMENTARY shifts of policy between elections, in France or England or here in the United States, are always most confusing. Where do the French deputies get the right to transform the Popular Front government in the midst of its career; and how is the British National government empowered to reorganize itself on a still less national and still more Conservative basis without any vote; and why do American congressmen feel bold

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enough now to forward a policy toward the New Deal which they avoided hinting at during the last election? All these moves make clear how vague a force is representative democracy and how extremely ambiguous are electoral results. It is impossible to prove that Senators Burke and Copeland and the Southerners are trampling, with their new-found courage, on the mandate of the people. Elections are not referendums and they simply do not furnish mandates. The rugged congressmen are, of course, taking enormous political risks by demonstrating that their opposition to the Court plan was only one providential element in their general, and now obviously established, attack on the New Deal type of progressivism. They certainly show no particular type of liberalism of their own. It seems to us that the voters when last heard from did at least show impatience with the negative attitude associated with unenlightened conservatism. Locally they are even now going much farther. The C.I.O. and Labor's Nonpartizan League and the American Labor party are bearing up well in tests of political efficiency and popularity. In Akron and Canton it is the C.I.O. candidates who won the Democratic nominations. That is still "rewarding friends and punishing enemies," but it appears now that if there are no friends in the old parties to reward, or if there are too many enemies in them who warrant, in the eyes of labor leaders, punishment, the result will be a Labor party of no small proportions in the near future—conceivably by fall, 1940.

IN A JOINT pastoral to the bishops of the world, the Spanish hierarchy recently declared that "there is no other hope for the recovery of justice and peace than the triumph of the Rightist movement." The pastoral affirms that 20,000 churches have been destroyed or looted, that 40 percent of the clergy —in some dioceses 80 percent—have been murdered, and that 300,000 laymen have been put to death solely for their opinions. Latest news dispatches reveal that priests and laymen were horribly tortured and executed in the prisons and aboard prison ships in the harbor of Bilbao before the capture of the city by Nationalist forces. Newly arrived prisoners on the ships were cruelly flogged and deprived of food. They died at the rate of two or three a day. General Franco's troops, conquering territory formerly occupied by Leftist forces, have invariably put a stop to these atrocities and inaugurated a humane régime.

Justice and Peace

FROM London comes the report that twenty-four Bilbao refugee children are being deported because they are uncontrollable. An official of the National Joint Committee for Spanish Relief stated that the children will be sent to Loyalist territory because they were taken from territory at that time in the hands of Loyalists. They will not be returned to Bilbao since that city is now controlled by Nationalists. Thus these unfortunate victims of Communist indoctrination and exploitation may be separated from their parents until the end of the war. Children under Catholic auspices, well-behaved and happy, will remain in England until such time as they can be returned to Bilbao. The Spanish tragedy may soon be concluded by a decisive Nationalist victory. Until that happy hour, the Reds will continue to prosecute their traditional policy of brutality, injustice and false propaganda in a vicious attempt to despoil Spain and hoodwink the civilized world.

THE IDEA of crop control is not one which is quickly approved. There are far too many sub-par diets and far too few clean shirts and new shoes in the world. How can the greatest number secure an adequate amount of farm products and farm derivatives with the greatest efficiency? This question involves all the economic and most of the other institutional problems the world faces. That the individual farmer should be encouraged or allowed to grow as he pleases however much he wishes of whatever crop he wants, does not seem to be a principle which could help in the solution of any of these problems, and specifically, in the feeding of the undernourished and the clothing of the sparsely clad. The land should be used in such a way as to preserve, and often, where it has been badly used before, to increase its richness. Men should farm in such a way that they can continue to work and can preserve their families and make sure that farmers can produce in the future. These considerations call for some planning and checking of the manner and kind and amount of agricultural production, for the good of the land and the farmers and for the common good.

Crop Control

THERE is clearly, however, a more difficult consideration. When there are many bushels of wheat which cannot be sold without wrecking the price system and the structure of which it forms a part, and many men who want more wheat but cannot pay the price, what should then be done? Charity cannot let the hungry starve; justice and reasoned self-interest cannot let the farmers bear all the cost. The whole nation must pay for, even as it benefits by, its institutions. The unemployed, the least powerful, have paid most during the depression, as crops were cut and prices built up. Before the depression the farmers paid while farm commodity prices fell in relation to industrial prices. The whole public by rights should equitably take up the burden. To what extent

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should we now fit the distribution to our going economic system, and how much assert the plain distribution of actual materials as primary and so revolutionize the system to follow that distribution? It is a relative problem. Nobody in the world believes that an absolute revolution is wise and very few want things to remain just exactly as they are. Crop control to preserve farm prices is a conservative tool to help maintain our present business structure. It would seem prudent to utilize it as much as proves necessary to assure us always a functioning productive and distributive framework. It would seem unwise to use it to block changes in that framework that could be expected to make it better. Crop control for conservation is clearly good. Crop control to keep up prices is justifiable to distribute equitably the burdens of an inefficient system, but wrong when it impedes reforms that could reduce the inefficiency.

Edith Wharton

MANY, perhaps most, of Edith Wharton's readers will feel that she reached her artistic peak at a period nearer the beginning of her career than the end of it. In their different genres, "The House of Mirth," "The Custom of the Country" and "Ethan Frome" seem almost unmatched in contemporary letters. The first turned that "dry light," of which Mrs. Wharton's master, Henry James, early discovered her to be the possessor, upon fashionable society as it existed in America three decades ago, a subject on which none could challenge her authority; and despite the inevitable narrowing of the field, and the lack of a religious, and hence a rooted, morality (a limitation felt in all her work), it presented a story as poignant on the human side as it was scathing on the social. "The Custom of the Country," with brilliant international excursions reminiscent of the James influence, is a study of the same society as undermined by the "new barbarians." "Ethan Frome," in startling contrast, is a stripped De Maupassant tragedy in a New England domestic setting. Of Mrs. Wharton's numerous later novels, perhaps "The Age of Innocence" alone has been as much prized as these three by connoisseurs who esteem exact social observation, virtuosity in irony, and a fine ability to convey the natural human quality, from the appealing to the base, untroubled by the supernatural. But Mrs. Wharton herself clearly transcends her own art, with all its genuineness and its real limitations. She was one of the figures linking our world with the world across the waters. For many years a resident of France, she understood France and interpreted it to her countrymen, as only a fine and highly civilized being could have done. It is hard to think of anyone with the dignity, the intelligence and the genius for appreciation, to take her place.

Waste

REPRESENTATIVE HAROLD KNUTSON of Minnesota last month directed the attention of American taxpayers to the startling fact that the federal government has expended or will expend $206,000,000 in travel expense alone for the fiscal years of 1936, 1937 and 1938. As Mr. Knutson correctly observes, this is a tremendous sum of money and will buy a whole lot of traveling. In fact, he points out, this huge sum far exceeds the cost of sending the American Expeditionary Forces to France during the World War. New Dealers are studying the sand rivers of China, soil conservation in Japan, rainfall in Java, and English soils in Good Heart. No country in the world today apparently is safe from New Deal investigators. Undoubtedly the slogan of the Department of Agriculture and other government departments is "See America and See the World." We would not be so unkind as to indorse Mr. Knutson's provocative suggestion that all New Dealers embark on a trip around the world at the equator. We have supported many New Deal policies—but only when they were wedded to what we believed to be the unfailing attributes of common sense. Wasteful and reckless spending at a time when the national indebtedness has reached a new all-time high cannot be defended on the score of urgent political or economic necessity. If the present administration is sincere in its desire to balance the budget, a start might be made on the travel accounts of many zealous but superfluous government vacationists.

Garden on Wheels

PERHAPS another O. Henry will be needed presently to deal with the paradoxical exchange of function between the country and the city. On the one hand, the sociologists complain that all the farm lads look cityward—and go cityward whenever they can. On the other hand, the joke about the guttersnipe who does not know the uses of a cow or the nature and purpose of grass, is plainly extinct. Not only do city children observe cows and roll on grass in larger and larger numbers every summer. Not only do they botanize in the parks and plant competitive patches of corn and turnips in the slums. Country exhibits are arranged for their inspection. The New York Park Department is outdoing itself currently, with a six-ton truck which plies among the playgrounds, delighting youthful metropolites with a dozen kinds of deep-summer bloom, a miniature cornfield, and a pond complete with frog, toad, turtle and snake. In addition, a Japanese beetle, a cutworm, a cabbage butterfly, and some poison ivy and ragweed admonish the youngsters to life's sterner lessons, horticulturally speaking.

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PEACE IN SPAIN

By OWEN B. McGUIRE

PEACE has been established in the greater part of Spain. Peace will soon be established in the other parts of Spain. On the establishment of peace there will follow a reasonably short military dictatorship to be succeeded by a truly democratic form of government which will be in accordance with the psychology of the Spanish people and with their native political traditions. To show my reasons for these statements is the purpose of this article.

I am writing on August 5. From the dispatches in the daily press, even from the hitherto lying and deceptive reports from Madrid and Valencia, it is apparent that the Civil War is nearing a decisive phase. The British Minister of Foreign Affairs has, in fact, practically declared this in the Commons; and his political behavior for the past two weeks makes manifest his conviction. Accordingly, various projects from various angles are now proposed for making peace. Some of these proposals are put forth by sentimentalists; but most of them, as will be seen by any person capable of reading between the lines, come from those who, having hitherto supported the barbarities and anarchy of the "legitimate and democratic government," now want to save their own face and to open an easy way out for their criminal protegées.

There is but one possible way to permanent peace for all Spain. That way was admirably set forth in an editorial in THE COMMONWEAL for July 30, and the reasons given. It is not necessary to repeat them.

I leave for Spain in a few days. Two months ago when I was planning the journey I wrote for information to a highly placed official of the British administration at Gibraltar. (I will land at Gibraltar.) He wrote me: "I can answer your queries authentically, for I have just returned from a trip through White Spain, as we call it, including your old winter-quarters, Cadiz, Jerez, Seville, Malaga. With a military permit, which is easily obtained for a responsible person, travel is safe and easy. Living is cheap and there is abundance of food. In fact, there is prosperity. What will seem more incredible to you: the people are gay and happy. In Seville you will find life pleasanter, more peaceful and less preoccupied than when you were there during the Azaña régime. Even in Malaga, where they suffered horribly, it is the same. Police duty is done by volunteers, and not much of it is necessary. The explanation is that the people feel they have been delivered from the agonies of a horrible nightmare. Of course one must consider also the astonishing native resiliency of the Spanish people."

If that were the testimony of one person, it might be doubted. But it cannot be doubted. It is the testimony of a host of correspondents and independent witnesses who have been over the ground. (I am referring especially to what has been published in the English press, Catholic and secular.) Among them are such journalists as Francis McCullagh and Randolph Churchill, eminent writers like Arthur Bryant and Major Geoffrey Moss. Several others, who are not writers by profession but are well known in the public life of England, one of them a Major General, have gone down to see for themselves and have returned to tell the same story. It is the testimony of the whole British colony at Gibraltar, who have direct information from that part of Spain and some of whom go in there daily. Nor has it been denied, even in this country, by those who support the Madrid-Valencia "legitimate and democratic government." All that these attempt to do now in denial of this demonstrated fact is to keep on repeating the long-since exploded lies about the mass executions at Seville and Badajoz.

Only the other day the correspondent of the New York *Times* on the Insurgent front sent to his paper a long extract from an address of General Franco to the foreign correspondents assembled at Salamanca. "All of you go to the front and verify personally . . . I am glad to welcome you here. I wish to thank you for your work, particularly because we have no money for propaganda. You are free to go wherever you like. We only ask you to tell the truth. You will find order everywhere and life as normal as it can ever be in war times."

On the same day and on the same page of the *Times*, their correspondent at Madrid, who is manifestly in favor of the Reds, had to report that for the previous eight days the foreign correspondents were allowed to send only the government communiqués, and were not allowed to leave Madrid.

In view of the established and undeniable fact that peace reigns in nearly two-thirds of Spain, I contend that by the same means peace can and will be established throughout Spain.

When the Valencia junta has fallen, what has happened in the greater part of Spain will be repeated in the other parts, and that within a reasonably short time. That is my conviction. Considering the long fight put up by the Marxist combination and the character of its various ele-

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ments, this may seem incredible. But it will appear incredible only to those who do not understand Spain, especially if they have not been able to follow the events of the past dozen years, to follow them daily as they occurred and in their logical sequence. To form a correct judgment it would also be necessary to know just what these various Marxist parties are, and what their numerical strength when they are not at liberty to press all the other workers into their associations at the point of a gun. The masses of the Spanish people are not very different in that territory from those in the territory already won by the Nationalists. In an article like this there is not space to set out adequately the reasons for the conviction I have expressed above; but I can indicate some of them.

(1) After Barcelona, the most radical and Communistic cities in Spain were Seville and Malaga. There is peace and order in these two cities now, and in all the territory west and north up to Bilbao. Why should it be impossible to believe that peace can be established in the rest of Spain by the same means? It should be remembered that in all the towns and villages through which the small army of Franco had advanced from Algeciras on the sea up to the gates of Madrid, these gunmen had been in control for six months, had terrorized the population and had perpetrated atrocities of murder and arson even worse than those in Barcelona and Madrid. Yet when the army had passed through, there was peace and order; and peace and order have continued there ever since.

You may ask: How is that possible? Well, suppose the gangsters and Communists have been allowed here in New York State to arm themselves for six months. Suppose that the Governor orders the police, the state troopers and the militia to remain in their barracks and not to interfere with "the popular demonstrations." Suppose the members of the trade-unions are forced at the point of a gun to join up with them or get shot. Suppose that the militia and state troopers rise up to put a stop to this anarchy; and then suppose the Governor to open the doors at Sing Sing and all the other state prisons, and that arms are handed out to "the people" who go marching after a Red flag, crying, "Viva Russia," "Up the Revolution," "Down with the United States," "Up Lenin," "Down with Roosevelt," "Live the Dictatorship of the Proletariat." They sing the Internationale, and woe to anyone who starts "The Star-Spangled Banner."

While such people are in control, how many of them will it take to terrorize a village or town of 5,000 population here in New York State? And what will be the feelings of that population after the militia has cleared them out of the town? And will the attitude of the same population be in all cases determined by their attitude at the ballot box two years before?

(2) In 1923, the country was on the verge of chaos, especially in Catalonia. Then the Dictator assumed power. For at least three years he was immensely popular. I was there and saw it. His journey from Barcelona to Madrid to meet the King was a triumphal march. The towns along the way turned out *en masse* to greet him. During his six years there was not a single execution for political reasons or for attempted insurrection. There was press censorship; but only one newspaper was suppressed and that one only for three days and for cause stated. The war in Africa had been a nightmare for the people for a generation, and they hailed him as their deliverer. The Socialist party cooperated with him, and Caballero, the most radical of its leaders, became a Privy Counsellor. The Communists and Anarchists remained quiet.

The vast majority of the people who are still subject to the Valencia junta are now praying to be delivered from a worse nightmare and will hail their deliverers. They have done it already wherever Franco's arms have triumphed, even in Bilbao. It will be so also in Catalonia; but I will come to that later.

(3) In May, 1931, when these elements began to burn churches and convents, and when Azaña declared that "all the convents in Spain were not worth the life of one Republican," Maura, Minister of the Interior, resigned; and when the Cabinet begged him to return, he did so only on two conditions—to which Azaña also consented—that "he could, without consulting the Cabinet, put the armed Civil Guard in the street, and call out the military if necessary." It was not necessary. Within thirty-six hours the arson had stopped all over Spain, even in Malaga and Alicante where it was worst. A noted Spanish writer, known also in this country, assured me afterward at Madrid that the Communists and Anarchists had made preparations to fire all the houses on the Castellana—the chief residence avenue and the most beautiful in the city—on the night after Maura had called out the Civil Guard. When I went later to Alicante, one of the cities that had suffered most, I called on a member of the Lerroux party, a lifelong Republican whom I had known in another city and who now held a responsible position in the government. Pointing to a ruined church across the street, he said: "The whole thing could have been prevented by putting a score of the Civil Guard in the street." "And why was it not done?" I asked. "The Civil Governor," he answered, "had given an order for them to remain in their barracks and not to interfere with the popular celebrations."

It may be objected that conditions are now different and that Catalonia, La Vascongada and

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Madrid offer special obstacles to establishing peace. The conditions are different. But they are also very different from what Red propaganda (and Pink)—to which a great part of our daily press has succumbed—has represented them. With these special difficulties I will, perhaps, deal in another article. For the present it should be remembered: (a) That the real numerical strength of these Marxists associations has been greatly exaggerated; at least half of those who have been forced to join up with them will hail the deliverer when they have a chance to do so. (b) The war would have ended last December, if it had not been for the aid given by France and Russia. (c) There are millions who, for one reason or another, voted the Popular Front last year but now regret it. They would never have voted for such anarchy as existed in Spain, even for the five months that preceded the war. When peace is restored these people will be more conserative than ever. They have learned that if you sup with the devil you need a very long spoon.

MY COMMUNIST FRIENDS

By JUNE COYNE

ALTHOUGH I am not at all an intellectual, I have long been tolerated on the fringe of several once young, but now not so young, intellectual groups. Most of the men and women in these loosely connected groups are not avowed Communists, yet all of them believe in a Socialist State, or as Belloc calls it, the Servile State. They are without exception from good, conservative Protestant American families, and are all products of American colleges and universities. They feel that they have traveled far in breaking with their home environments, nor can they help emitting a faint odor of smugness about their progressive and independent minds.

They little realize that in any Servile State, the despised Fascist or the beloved Communist, if it were ever their lot to live in one, they would be the first to revolt against the stifling atmosphere. For their lives are all based on the principle of I-have-a-right-to-do-as-I-please, and in fact, this principle is responsible for leading them into the camp of the Left. By this statement I do not wish to depreciate their very real interest in those who suffer from social injustice, but rather to show that because of this principle they were lured to defend that method of cure (Communism) which is decried by the so-called forces of reaction. Now since they consider the Catholic Church one of the worst forces of reaction in the world, they are as much enemies of our plans for social justice as are any of the worst sweatshop employers.

In some way or another my friends of the Left are all connected with the education of Americans. Some are professors at New York University and Teachers College, some are editors of educational publications, a few are journalists and artists, others just plain teachers or writers. They are not only in positions of influence, but they are clever and know how to use that influence in spreading the ideas which they are convinced are the only right ideas.

In their private lives the majority of these people now lead ordinary, respectable family lives, even though that state has often been achieved by the process of disruption in former homes. This does not mean, however, that they have in any way abandoned their youthful ideal of revolt against the mores of society, but rather that with advancing years they find the ordinary conventional ways of life more comfortable and satisfying.

One other faith besides that of socialism binds these intelligentsia, and that is psychology. I was associated at one time with a psychology department at a large secular university, and I can testify that one or two only out of all these teachers of the subject had that childlike faith in the infallibility of psychology which is common not only in the uneducated, but also among many of our educated educators. They have more belief in the powers of psychology than they ever had in the Christianity of their childhood. All of their own actions, as well as those of their friends and enemies, are invariably explained in the best psychological formulae.

Yet another point of complete agreement is their faith in the dogmatic teachings of atheism. It is true that a few will condescendingly concede that there may be a Force running the world, but prefer not to refer to It as God. Others tend toward a vague sort of nature worship, and express extreme impatience with us who go inside of churches for an hour on a Sunday morning. They are not stupid, nor are they wicked, but they have definitely closed their minds on the subject. They do, however, enjoy acting in a manner that is childishly shocking. A very definite indication of this desire to show how bad they are comes out in singing a song at parties. This song is a perversion of some Protestant Sunday School hymn, in which the child says that he is Jesus's little lamb, all of which they find very amusing.

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But aside from taking pleasure in profaning His Holy Name, I believe they give little thought to the Redeemer of the world, or to His Church. They have been convinced that Christianity will be liquidated by their infallible march of time, and disregard it except for occasional bursts of irritation. With the superficial training in philosophy which they received in school, plus the still more superficial training they had in Christian doctrine in Sunday School, they are convinced that Christianity is a human institution which has failed because it has not brought forth a Utopia on this earth. They feel that this decision is the only possible one to people of their advanced type.

I can relate a perfect example of this state of mind. One evening during a discussion of art I lent a young Communist artist (and a good artist, too) Nicholas Berdyaev's "The End of Our Time," saying that while he no doubt would disagree with the author, he might enjoy the ideas on the Renaissance. I also warned him that the book was not light reading. He said that didn't bother him, and accepted it rather eagerly. About two months later I asked him how he liked the book. He answered, "Well, I didn't read very far, you may as well take it back." I was in no hurry to take it, and suggested that his wife might care to read it. She hastily assured me that she had a lot of things to read, and probably wouldn't ever get around to it. I began to get curious, as both of them had the attitude of being uncomfortable over having such heretical literature about the house, so I asked why they were so uninterested. The artist answered, "Well, it is interesting enough, if you agree with the major premise, but I don't think it's true, and I don't care to read the book." I asked what the major premise seemed to him to be, and he replied, "The existence of God."

Now I have drawn this group portrait for the purpose of showing just what the American Communists are like. These two people were perfectly sincere, and I venture to say they are fairly representative of most of the people with similar positions of influence in education throughout the country. It is practically impossible to hope for a change in their closed and thoroughly indoctrinated minds. The fact remains that they have the ear of the country, while we who try to make our still voice of Reason heard, have not.

I have read many devastating arguments against the state of mind which is typical of these friends, but I know perfectly well that they will never read them, nor will 90 percent of the people whom they influence. It suddenly occurred to me, why must all the good Catholic logical arguments be published only by Catholic periodicals, and consequently read only by Catholic audiences? Not only for the sake of the non-Catholics who have not made up their minds to support state socialism, and the numerous other un-Catholic principles for which my friends fight, but also for the sake of the many Catholics who read the secular papers and magazines, we should try to invade the secular press as well.

I have long thought that we have a brilliant corps of apologists in this country, but I have often sighed over the scarcity of good story-tellers, dramatists and artists. When one considers the almost overwhelming mass of Socialist propaganda incorporated in the stories, novels and drama and art which is popular today, it is truly appalling. At first one feels that to attempt an antidote is impossible. Then one is heartened by remembering the popularity of the brilliant Father Brown stories, which proves that the public will take and like Catholic literature, even when it contains small doses of Catholic ideology, provided it be good literature.

Now with all respect to the American Catholic story-tellers, they appear so eager to bring out the moral of the story that they forget to bother about craftsmanship, and the result is usually deplorable. In fact, I know a few devout Catholics who have tried to read them, and in despair have thrown away the wheat with the chaff, and decided to eschew Catholic literature forever.

The Scythe Tree

It was a monument a man might not
Choose in a thousand years if he had thought,
But this man never thought of it at all,
He merely hung his scythe up as he ought.

He hung it in the fork of his young tree,
High up so his small son might not be
Hurt on it, and went off to the war
Which might go on two months, or maybe three.

The goldenrod filled all the fields with light,
Then frost-flowers came, and then the frost lay white;
One bright spring day a bullet cut the earth
And let the man fall through to stars and night.

The summers hurried, and the winters crawled,
The circles of the seasons walled and walled
The elm around with rings of living wood,
And new small sons beneath it crowed and called.

And one of them, when he had got his grey
Hair upon him, found the scythe one day,
Buried all but heel and point inside
The elm's trunk and the snathe rotted away.

It was a gravestone anyone could trust,
A proper one to mark a farmer's dust,
The tool he made his living by kept safe,
Wrapped around by life against the rust.

Robert P. Tristram Coffin.

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COOPERATING FOR MEDICAL CARE

By E. L. CHICANOT

A PROBLEM with which Canada, in common with the United States, has been endeavoring to cope for some time is the furnishing of the people with a system of more adequate medical care at reasonable cost. It has been steadily accentuating for years and become seriously acute by reason of the conditions of the period of the depression. On the one hand is a substantial section of the populace, falling in between the rich and the indigent, in urgent need of some measure which will enable them to utilize the services of doctors at a charge within their means. On the other hand doctors are groping round for some scheme or plan they might adopt which will ensure them remuneration from patients no longer able to pay for their services.

It is a problem which has occupied the serious and best attention of legislative bodies and organized medicine, and which is rapidly coming to an issue. Both look to the early establishment of a system or systems of compulsory state health insurance, after the European pattern. It is apparently the only way they can see out of the situation though in prospect it is generally opposed by business, satisfies but a small section of the medical profession, and splits parliamentary bodies.

A federal health insurance law to cover the dominion is definitely in the offing, awaiting only the straightening out of the matter of dominion and provincial rights in the enactment of social legislation. Meanwhile Alberta proceeded with a compulsory health insurance bill which only failed of being put into effect by the sudden and unexpected change of government. British Columbia placed a similar law on its statutes after the last session of the legislature which, unless something entirely unforeseen occurs, will go into effect next spring. Meanwhile organized medicine endeavors to stave off the inevitable through the introduction of voluntary health insurance plans, group hospitalization schemes, and other measures.

The people, who are mainly concerned, have taken practically no part in the agitation. There are, however, two independent movements in Canada by people who have solved the question for themselves. The one, which has achieved significant proportions, while of adventitious origin and not the result of conscious action along the orthodox lines of cooperative organization, developed out of that same attitude and spirit which has made cooperative action along many lines so successful everywhere. The other is by way of the natural expansion of a well organized and established consumers' cooperative society.

What has come to be known as the municipal doctor system in Western Canada is essentially a cooperative movement for the specific purpose of securing medical care at a cost within the means of the average farmer. In its origin it furnishes an excellent example of the instinctive urge to cooperative effort among the working population, which evidences itself in the absence or the breakdown of other systems to which they have been long accustomed, when, in short, they are confronted with the necessity of doing their own planning and thinking for themselves. In its development it illustrates in splendid fashion the inevitable growth of a sound cooperative idea and the broad success which may attend upon initial small planning in this manner.

Back in 1914, the local doctor in the small town of Holdfast, Saskatchewan, little thought what he was starting and the revolution which would follow in the wake of his announcement when he said he was leaving because he could not make a living. There were fewer than 2,000 people in the ten and a half townships he served, and they agreed he was probably right in going away. They certainly had not given him enough business to live on and he could probably do better elsewhere.

But at the same time they were perturbed. It was hardly likely that a new doctor would move into a field that had been abandoned for lack of subsistence, and though they had not had much occasion to call upon the doctor, there was no telling when any one of them might urgently require him. The prospect of having no medical man within reach in case of sickness or accident was not a pleasant one. A small group of farmers got together to talk the matter over, and as a result of their discussion they approached the doctor and asked him if he would consider staying if they could guarantee him a large enough sum to live on. Somewhat dubious of their ability to make such guarantee, he consented.

The little group of farmers made a canvass of the community and $10 a year was secured from 180 families so that they were able to go to the doctor and offer him $1,800 to remain and look after them. He stayed. The next year the council of the municipality paid him out of general funds, though no law authorized the action. A year later the Saskatchewan legislature made legal a grant of not more than $1,500 from tax funds to keep a doctor at hand.

Thus obscurely in a little country district a simple group of farmers gave birth to an idea which was largely to revolutionize the system of

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health and medical care over a substantial part of the western prairies, where doctors were ordinarily called only in extreme emergency and were ill compensated for their services. The step they took resulted in the enactment of new laws in Saskatchewan and later in Manitoba permitting the application of taxes to this purpose. According to the latest statistics available, there were at the beginning of the year 102 out of the 302 municipalities in Saskatchewan either with a full-time municipal doctor, or with the necessary by-law passed to appoint a doctor. Many municipalities in Manitoba and Alberta have similarly made contracts with physicians and the movement is steadily spreading over the Prairie Provinces.

In the little agricultural community of Holdfast, where the plan was born, the doctor is now paid $4,000 a year by the municipality and all his services are free except that in maternity cases an individual fee of $7 is charged. The patient pays for his medicine, and if a serious case requires a surgeon-specialist, nurse or hospital treatment, these have to be paid for on the usual private basis. Looking wider afield these are, it is ascertained, the usual terms prevailing throughout the various municipalities in Saskatchewan, for which the average farmer is taxed $11.50 per year. No one could complain of the medical bill for his family amounting to no more than this for the twelve months, and the idea of cooperation in the first place made it possible.

From the standpoint of the residents of these communities the scheme has worked out to the greatest satisfaction. Farmers know that in the event of sickness or accident to any member of their families the doctor can be summoned immediately without the fear of being saddled with a bill it might take months or years to clear up. It has seen the reversal of the usual situation when the doctor does well when others are unfortunate enough to be sick, for under the prevailing conditions the doctor does not have to wait for illness to make a little money.

It pays the doctor to inoculate against diphtheria, small pox and scarlet fever, to catch infected tonsils before they begin to be troublesome. He sees conditions early before the patient is critically ill, and he can go to see the patient as often as he wishes without the latter thinking he is trying to make the bill as large as possible or worrying over it. All this has tended to raise the standard of health in districts where the municipal doctor system has been introduced, official testimony to which is plentiful.

While Western Canada was making progress in this regard, cooperating to provide medical care which was lacking at a price it could afford, the movement toward the establishment and expansion of consumers' cooperative societies in Nova Scotia reached a point where under visionary guidance it was able to branch out into the same field, initiating a development which is the first of its kind on the American continent.

The community of St. Andrews, Antigonish County, Nova Scotia, is often held up as an example of the broad potential accomplishment of cooperative effort in a restricted area. This had its beginning some thirty-five years ago in the formation of agricultural societies under the provincial Department of Agriculture. The district has a splendid community hall, and has long been prominent in such organizations as sewing clubs, garden clubs, debating and dramatic contests, and in the realm of education. Community woodcutters and threshing mills have for years been in use, and farmers have cooperated in the building and operation of creameries and the support of a credit union. The largest single undertaking has been the St. Andrews Cooperative Company, Ltd., which besides paying off a $3,000 deficit of the first years of operation has paid stock dividends and purchase rebates to the extent of $31,500, and has an undistributed reserve surplus of $21,500.

It is through this last enterprise that the novel step in cooperation in America has been taken. A scheme of group hospitalization for its shareholders and members of their families has been arranged whereby the sum of $9 from patronage dividends per shareholder is paid to St. Martha's Hospital in nearby Antigonish. This provides these customers and their families with ward service for five weeks, ordinary medicine, laboratory service, operating-room service, general nursing care and nursing supervision, and surgical dressing, together with a 50-percent reduction where a private or semi-private room is desired as well as X-ray charges.

Group hospitalization is not entirely new in Canada though it has only taken hold in a few widely separated centers. Sufficient data is however available on its operation to ensure that the hospital at Antigonish can care for the St. Andrews group profitably on these terms, while of course no group could make arrangements for such hospital care more advantageously. And it has all been accomplished without actual disbursement on the part of the farmers and solely from the profits accruing from cooperative store operation.

While the problem of medical care has been harassing governments and organized medicine, and the bulk of the people have remained indifferent and inert, little groups of farmers at either end of the dominion have gone quietly ahead and solved it satisfactorily for themselves. It furnishes an example of how the spirit and principles of cooperation can be applied to any problem affecting the bulk of the people and is one which will unquestionably be followed in farming communities in Canada to an increasing extent.

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BACK ON THE LAND

By LEO L. WARD

IF WE should walk out into the feed lots of Middle America, I think we should be greatly heartened by what the farmer would have to say. No planning will ever solve the farm problem that does not begin with what the people on the land are thinking.

The new farmer has rapidly returned to a very old point of view. It is hardly an exaggeration to say that he is his grandfather, in almost everything except his clothes and his machinery. He is thinking of farming, no longer in terms of markets, but in terms of life. As contrasted with the farmer of a dozen years ago, there is little of the speculator or enterpriser about him. He has forgotten all about California and Florida, either as the easy street to which he might move after making a little pile, or as the Utopia where, after declaring bankruptcy, he might start all over again by opening up a garage or a gasoline station. The new farmer is no longer restive, and he is no longer dreaming.

What the new farmer wants is security. He wants a stable world that he can be sure of, a farm that will really be his own, where he can live until he dies, and where his children can feel that they also have a stake that cannot easily be pulled up by bankers or bad crops. In large measure he has given up the ideal of private enterprise, and has returned to the ideal of private property.

But you must talk to both kinds of farmers, if you are to know what the people on the land are thinking—to the old men, and to the young men. It is not easy to get a lot of talk out of the old men. They are chewing their toothpicks dubiously, and blinking, and trying to make sure just what they do think about the whole thing. It is a new world that has come up around them, and they do not know exactly what to say about it.

"It's a funny thing," they will tell you, "and I can't quite make it out. But it's real as the weather. You see it and feel it everywhere, even if you can't figure it all out. It's the way people are beginning to talk, even the way they look. These young fellows—even them that's got their tractors and fancy machinery—why, they're beginning to say the same things my dad told me forty years ago. Makes me feel kind of foolish, some ways. Seems like these young fellers are the old ones, and we're only the kids. But there ain't much left for us old fellows to do. It's too late now. About the only thing we can do is remember a lot of mistakes, and just keep hoping these young fellers know how to start in. It's pretty funny, I tell you—everything turned upside down. It's like forty years ago, and me an old man now."

The young men are very different. They are not puzzled and they are not surprised. They are chewing no toothpicks dubiously, and they are not blinking as they talk. Their talk is very definite, very confident, but very calm. "The price of land!" They seem almost shocked by your question. "Is that what you want to know? Seems like that's the only thing city folks are ever interested in. Well, yes, the price of land is going up a little. It ought to go up some. But we're not going to be fooled again. It would be just too bad if it ever goes back up to anything fancy. We're cured of big talk. We're down to earth now, and we know what it feels like. We're back on the land, and we're going to stay there. We've found out it's a pretty good place to be.

"Yes, sir, we've learned something. Or most of us have. And if I'm not mistaken, we're going to remember it for a long time. It'll be too bad if we ever forget it.

"Do you see that big barn over there, the big white one, with the silos, and all the white hog houses running out behind? Over on the next road, with all the trees behind? It all looks pretty big and fancy, don't it? Needs a little paint, but pretty fine and fancy just the same. And it all looks like business too, don't it? Well, that's just the trouble with it. That's all it ever did mean. Just business, big business, big ideas. Oh, I'm not against improving our farms. Not at all. I'm against fancy ideas, that's all. People wanting to farm, just to make a lot of easy money, and that's all people had in their heads about ten or fifteen years ago. I was just a kid then, but I remember everything. The old man over there on that place, and all his boys too, that's the kind of ideas they got into their heads. Especially the boys. They were going to make a lot of big, easy money.

"And they weren't the only ones. A lot of other folks had big ideas. They were all looking for something you wouldn't have to work for. Some way to make big easy money, and make it in a hurry—and then go out to California.

"Well, a lot of 'em did go to California, and a lot of 'em went to Chicago and Detroit, and such places, but they didn't go there with a lot of money. They went there when the bottom dropped out of farming along about '22. They went there to get a job, that was why they went. They came back in droves along in '29 and '30. And here they are. They're back here still, or most of them are. But they're a different kind of people, I can tell you. And we're all different. Yes, sir, we're back on the ground, and we want to stay there. We're farmers again, and we don't want to try to be anything else. There's just one thing we want, and that's to make sure of things. We want to know where we are, all round. Want to be sure we'll get something for what we raise, and won't have to keep the shotgun loaded to drive the sheriff off the place if we happen to have a bad year. All we want is our farms, and a chance to pay for them, and a chance to go on living here. I guess that just about answers your question, don't it?"

It will seem pretty clear to anyone who visits a typical farming community of Middle America that the new farmer has rather definitely returned to an earlier point of view, that he has come to think of farming largely as a way of life, and not merely as a way of making money. Will he remember the difference? Will he go on believing in it permanently? I admit that it is a great deal to hope for; I know it is easy to raise grave doubts about it. But for the moment it is pleasant, and just a bit exciting, to realize that we have met our grandfather again, and heard his voice talking very wisely back over the years.

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Seven Days' Survey

The Church.—At the eighty-second national convention of the Catholic Central Verein, Hartford, Conn., August 18, Reverend Joseph F. MacDonnell, S.J., of Weston College told the delegates that social progress could be attained only by class cooperation. * * * Cardinal Schuster, O.S.B., of Milan and Cardinal Verdier of Paris presided at impressive ceremonies at Solesmes, France, commemorating the centenary of the reopening of the renowned Solesmes Abbey. Bishop Cotter of Portsmouth, England, was a special guest because of the hospitality shown the French Benedictines in exile by his diocese. Bishop Grente of Le Mans, a member of the French Academy, extolled Dom Guéranger, who restored the abbey, a work which led to the establishment of 15 abbeys and 5 priories, with 1,000 Benedictines and 500 lay Brothers, and the diffusion of books and methods of Gregorian Chant throughout the world. * * * Social and economic conditions will form the theme of the next national Eucharistic Congress at New Orleans, October 17-21, 1938. * * * The twenty-third annual convention of the National Council of Catholic Charities will open at St. Paul, Minn., August 29. * * * Speaking at a general audience Pope Pius XI declared that he would like every American parish to have a parochial school. * * * Archbishop Doherty of Manila has been traveling through the Philippine jungle on horseback to administer Confirmation to the faithful in remote villages of his archdiocese. * * * On the second anniversary of the signing of a petition on the deplorable conditions in Mexico by 251 members of the House, Representative John P. Higgins of Massachusetts said, "The battle for religious liberty in Mexico has not been won. It has scarcely been inaugurated and an enormous amount of work remains to be done by true liberals and honest exponents of representative government." * * * Fifteen Maryknoll Sisters, their twenty-seventh departure group for the Orient, sailed for various mission posts, August 15. * * * The Most Reverend Walter A. Foery, Rochester, N. Y., was consecrated Bishop of Syracuse by Archbishop Mooney of Detroit, August 18.

The Nation.—The House of Representatives adopted the working rules it usually does when there are only a few more days left to a session and first of all passed the Third Deficiency Appropriation bill providing $100,000,000 for federal activities previously overlooked. This sum was greater than the administration, pleading for economy, wanted. It went largely for federal buildings, but a substantial amount of it will support the N.L.R.B., and the Department of Agriculture will receive $20,000,000 more for the farm tenancy program. * * * The Treasury has received $1,000,000,000 in beer taxes since the repeal of prohibition. Americans are drinking more beer than ever and during the last fiscal year federal taxes amounted to $277,455,239. * * * The Wages and Hours Bill appeared to be "smothered" in committee, although strong blocs backed up by labor lobbyists wanted to bring it out again and the administration has not yet declared itself. * * * The House committee reported out the Housing bill changed in important respects since it left the Senate. The maximum cost per family unit was raised from $4,000 to $5,000. The total loans for the three-year period were reduced from $726,000,000 to $526,000,000. No state would be permitted more than 10 percent of the loans and local governments would have to raise more of the money. * * * A Senate committee drew up an executive reorganization bill which more or less parallels the bill recently passed by the House. It would also, however, eliminate the pre-auditing of expenses and give the president the power to extend the civil service over all federal employees after a non-competitive examination. The idea of a consolidated Department of Welfare was attacked in Congress as paving the way for federal control of all education as well as all social service. * * * Secretary Wallace was reported to have agreed with farm blocs that cotton loans would be a good thing. He was said to favor $.09 loans. * * * The annual report of the New York Stock Exchange protested that SEC rules have hampered stock markets to such an extent that there is a dangerous lack of liquidity in the market for even good corporate stocks. In time of stress, the report contended, this would be dangerous.

The Wide World.—The Modus Vivendi agreed upon by the government of Ecuador and the Holy See, which reestablishes friendly relations with the Vatican after a lapse of sixty-two years, was signed in duplicate form by Minister of Foreign Affairs Don Carlos Manuel Larrea and the Most Reverend Fernando Cento, Apostolic Nuncio to Peru, who since last September has been negotiating with the Ecuador government as the delegate of the Vatican. * * * Nationalist troops, closing in on Santander, captured the important town of Reinosa, 20 villages, 2,000 prisoners and large quantities of arms and stores. Following a visit of Prime Minister Juan Negrin to Barcelona, the Valencia government took over the public order, military defense, customs, coast and border control of the Catalan government. * * * The United States indefinitely postponed execution of a plan to lease six over-age decommissioned destroyers to Brazil for training purposes. Argentina and other Latin-American countries had protested the plan. * * * The Mexican agrarian code has been changed in order to enable the government to advance another step in seizing landed estates for division among peasants. General Saturnino Cedillo, leader of the last private army in Mexico and foe of President Cárdenas, was forced to resign his post as Secretary of Agriculture. * * * Seventy-two more Russians were executed as spy-saboteurs of the Japanese following a wreck on the Trans-Siberian Railway. A resurrection of religious life and sentiment is reported. Fifteen more

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American tourists were barred from entering Russia on their arrival at Leningrad. No reason was given. * * * Berlin celebrated the seven hundredth anniversary of its founding. A Catholic pilgrimage to Speier on the occasion of the twentieth episcopal and seventy-fifth birthday anniversary of Bishop Ludwig Sebastian was called off because of a counter-demonstration of 150,000 National Socialists. * * * Paraguay abandoned her state socialism experiment and announced a return to a constitutional, representative, republican form of government. Provisional President Rafael Franco resigned his office as the result of a military coup.

* * * *

The Battle of Shanghai.—After a week's fighting the populous city of Shanghai was filled with ruins. Thousands of noncombatants had been killed after bombs from Chinese planes, intended for Japanese warships anchored in the river, fell into the city streets and then Japanese squadrons of Curtis Falcon type planes poured tons of high explosives and incendiary bombs on various sectors of the city. Other results of the first week's fighting were slight territorial gains chiefly on the part of the Chinese forces with their superior numbers, a wide extension of the Shanghai fighting area and the evacuation of more than 1,000,000 inhabitants from the beleaguered Honkgew and Yangstepoo districts. Reports were meager from Nankow in the North, where Japan had precipitated hostilities by seeking to acquire new lands with rich sources of needed raw materials and an impoverished population, but it appeared that soggy weather conditions and determined Chinese resistance had thus far held the invaders in check. Japanese troops there were said to number 65,000 with 35,000 more on the way. There can be no doubt that the sympathies of the American public lie with China, and there is considerable popular feeling that the invoking of the new Neutrality Act would favor Japan. Secretary Cordell Hull announced, August 17, that American troops would not be maintained indefinitely to protect American citizens who despite due warning and ample opportunity to escape persisted in remaining in danger zones for the sake of profit. This characteristically New Deal viewpoint was voiced as 1,200 more marines were sent out from San Diego and an effort to obtain a $500,000 relief and evacuation appropriation was launched. It was rumored in Washington that President Roosevelt is planning a complete withdrawal of American troops from the International Settlement when the time is propitious. Americans fleeing from the stricken city had to run a gauntlet of Sino-Japanese fire despite a generous display of the Stars and Stripes.

Labor.—By August 17, the Textile Workers Organizing Committee had secured contracts for about 28,000 workers in the smaller mills of the silk and rayon industry which it is now attempting to organize. This covers about half the industry. Negotiations in the important Paterson, N. J., region were being blocked because "the T.W.O.C. wants a guaranteed minimum wage, and will oppose anything else as contrary to the aims of the strike," and because the mill owners were insisting upon the old piece-rate system. On August 17, the owners of the larger mills who employ about 21,000 in their Pennsylvania plants formed the Pennsylvania Textile Association to "present a united stand against the terroristic and coercive tactics of outside agitators." Thus it appeared that to complete the second half of their drive the T.W.O.C. would have to meet a much stronger and better organized reaction. * * * The American Communications Association, an expanded framework rising from the C.I.O. American Radio Telegraphists Association, began a drive to enlist 250,000 workers in the communications industry. In the radio industry the A. F. of L. began a drive to enroll "all technical workers in the broadcast field," the C.I.O. to sign up "every technical worker from microphone to antenna," in spite of the fact that both N.B.C and C.B.S have contracts with independent unions. The American Federation of Radio Artists, under the presidency of Eddie Cantor, likewise began a drive in the field now covered by the independent American Guild of Radio Announcers and Producers. * * * Witnesses before the N.L.R.B. presented evidence of the domination of Wierton Steel over their workers by methods outlawed by the Wagner Act as well as evidence of company domination of the whole West Virginia community. "Independent" or "company" unions mobilized a parade of 8,000 workers in protest against the N.L.R.B. and the C.I.O. * * * The A. F. of L. carpenters and joiners, charging the C.I.O. was invading its jurisdiction, sent word to all its members to refuse to work with materials produced by the C.I.O.

The Near East.—In Syria, still a French mandate, French troops saw action during the week quelling disturbances. Most troubled regions of this mandate are the Sanjak of Alexandretta where the strongly Turkish population resents Syrian domination, the El-Fjezira region, where the Turkish and Kurdish population has little sympathy for a Syrian administration, and Jebel ed-Druz in the South, where the Druses constitute another centrifugal force. The wind-up of the Syrian mandate presents numerous difficulties not dissimilar to those which England confronts in Palestine. The twentieth Zionist Congress, just finished in Switzerland, finally accepted partition of Palestine as a basis for further negotiations. The strong anti-partition wing of the Congress, under the leadership of Rabbi Stephen S. Wise of New York, expressed strong opposition to the partition of Congress, but returned before it closed and expressed the hope that negotiations will be handled in a way that will permit them to join fully with the majority. A meeting of non-Zionist Jews, led by Felix M. Warburg of New York, expressed strong opposition to the British plan. Palestine. Arab opinion on the subject is more divided and is nowhere powerfully opposed to the British plan. The Moslem Mufti in Palestine, leader of the opposition to the Jews there, opposes the division supposedly because it will decrease his powers in the non-Arab territories and also in the new Arab section, which is expected to come under the sway of the Emir Abdulla of Transjordania.

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The Arab states outside Palestine are generally immersed in local politics. In Iraq, General Bakr Sidky Pasha, who effected a coup d'état last October, killing the leader of the army and setting up a dictatorship with himself as perpetual chief of the general staff, was himself murdered at Mosul on August 12. A new Cabinet took office August 17 and issued an incidental statement opposing the partition of Palestine. The Christian Arabs of Palestine also rejected the partition scheme.

Planes.—During the 1937 fiscal year 38,753 passengers entered this country by air, a gain of 26.2 percent over 1936, 59 percent of them via Florida. Passengers from Canada also showed a large gain, but those from Mexico totaled less than in any of the last seven years. The Department of Commerce announced, August 16, the formation, personnel and first meeting of the Bureau of Air Commerce Advisory Board which will draw up "a long-time planning program for the operation of the civil airways of this country." The North American Newspaper Alliance reports a tremendous boom in the airplane industry in California. With $54,500,000 in unfilled orders and 11,000 men employed in the Los Angeles district alone, it is making an all-time record. The Douglas Aircraft Corporation has grown from a tiny factory in 1926 to a plant of 800,000 square feet, the largest of all plane production units. The Lockheed Aircraft Company at Burbank has sold its Electra model, similar to Miss Earhart's, to nine foreign countries in the last six months. Much of their progress is ascribed to the cooperation of Dr. Clark Millikan and his associates at the California Institute of Technology, which is well equipped for wind tunnel and laboratory tests. After hopping from the Azores 2,392 miles away, at the rate of 140 miles per hour, the Nordmeer alighted at Port Washington, August 16, with enough fuel on hand to fly 1,200 miles further. This first German plane of a projected transatlantic service had been catapulted from the steamship Schwabenland which is proceeding toward America. When it reaches here and another catapult ship has been stationed in the Azores, the series of sixteen experimental flights will continue. American and British planes were on their third round trip crossing, with the Pan American plane trying out the Bermuda-Azores route. Meanwhile rescue planes were scouring the Arctic wastes for the six Russian flyers lost on the third U.S.S.R.-America flight over the North Pole.

C.S.M.C.—The practise of social justice in all departments of American life was set down as one of the fundamental principles of home missionary activity by speakers in the tenth national convention of the Catholic Students' Mission Crusade which met last week in Cleveland. Taking their cue from the convention slogan, "Catholic Action through Mission Action," speakers representing both home and foreign mission fields endeavored to impress upon the students and educators from several hundred high schools, colleges and seminaries that missions are a very personal concern of each Catholic and not a consideration to be viewed as safely distant in Africa or the Orient. Reverend John T. Gillard, S.S.J., stated that the average Negro is not particularly interested in Communism as a theory but only as it affects his personal life. The secret of Communist success among the Negroes, he declared, is the distinctly Catholic idea of brotherhood. He challenged Catholics to prevent the growth of Communism among Negroes by showing their Christian friendship to people of the Negro race. Monsignor Thomas J. McDonnell, national director of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, urged the importance of American cooperation in the Catholic program of mission-aid at the present time because of conditions in Europe where the faithful, because of anti-religious laws, are unable to continue the generous support of missionary activities for which they were so long noted. Bishop James Edward Walsh, Superior-General of the Maryknoll Missioners, asserted that "the people of the Orient are tired of being looked down upon. They are tired of the extreme nationalism of those races that are always dwelling upon the superiority of their civilization and the excellence of their culture. The Orient has a civilization and a culture of its own, and the democratic American, with a mind open and disposed to appreciate it, comes to them as a refreshing figure."

Non-Catholic Religious Activities.—Before a World Conference on Faith and Order, the Archbishop of York preached the opening sermon in St. Giles Cathedral, Edinburgh, August 5. The sermon was a fervid plea for unity and effort on the part of the churches to understand one another. One hundred communions from fifty countries were represented by four hundred delegates including the principal Protestant denominations and the Orthodox Church. The meeting place of the conference was in the Assembly Hall of Edinburgh University, historic scene of the World Missionary Conference in 1910, where Bishop Brent of the United States conceived the idea which started this Christian Unity Movement. * * * Opposition to the state of Georgia's plan to furnish 800,000 Bibles to her school children was voiced by Dr. Louie D. Newton, pastor of Druid Hills Baptist Church, Atlanta. In leading the fight he stated, "It is an infringement upon a Free Church within a Free State." Dr. David Marz, Rabbi of the Hebrew Benevolent Congregation, and dean of Atlanta ministers, also voiced his opposition in declaring it "definitely unconstitutional," and an infringement on the duties of the Church and Synagogue. Dr. W. A. Shelton, Fifth District member of the State Board of Education, stated that the board will not back down on its proposal to furnish Bibles to all pupils of the public schools. * * * "Religious Education" will be the subject of a daily round table conference at the 1937 Williamstown Institute of Human Relations, from August 30 to September 3, at Williams College, with James Voorhees Thompson, professor of administration in religious education at Drew University, Madison, N. J., presiding. Other round table conferences which will be of interest to Christian and Jewish clergy and laity will be those on the religious press and on the development of standards within the agencies of public opinion.

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The Play and Screen

Age Twenty-two

IN HIS address last week at the close of the Mohawk Valley Drama Festival, Mr. Charles Coburn declared that our stars of the theatre are today all over forty and that in the present condition of the stage this is inevitable, there being no training grounds for inexperienced players. Well, Mr. Coburn, the most exciting things promised by the coming season are promised by a young man aged twenty-two, and a collaborator only a few years older. And young as they are these two youths are already known—they are Orson Welles and John Houseman. We know Mr. Welles for his Tybalt with Katherine Cornell, for his direction of the Negro "Macbeth," and of "Dr. Faustus," and for his playing of the title part in the latter drama; we know Mr. Houseman for his association with Mr. Welles in "Macbeth" and "Faustus," and for his hand in the direction of the Leslie Howard "Hamlet." In everything in which Mr. Welles and Mr. Houseman have collaborated there has been a touch of something in which the stage today is lamentably deficient—imagination. These two young men know their theatre and are yet not hobbled by tradition. They are willing to dare, and yet, *mirabilis mirabile,* they are not arty. Young though they are they are not stultified by that desire so prevalent in youth, the desire to be up to date, or rather they realize that to be truly up to date is to be for all time. In short, they believe in the classic drama as a vital, living force. What are the exciting things they offer?

In a small theatre like the Comedy or the Bijou they intend to start their season the first week in November with a modern dress version of Shakespeare's "Julius Caesar"; Mr. Welles hopes to present this play without liberties, and yet to bring forth its social content, a content which Mr. Welles and his co-director, Mr. Houseman, feel is peculiarly applicable to the present time. Following "Julius Caesar," but not in modern dress, will come Webster's tragedy, "The Duchess of Malfi," Ben Johnson's comedy, "The Silent Woman," and Shaw's "Heartbreak House," while in the spring will come Shakespeare's "Henry IV," Parts I and II, and "Henry V." Conditions permitting, Mr. Welles will not only direct but will act in some of these plays—in how many it is not possible to determine at present owing to the fact that Mr. Welles is also to play "King Lear" for Arthur Hopkins.

It is understood that the directors have already secured sufficient backing for their plays, and as they announce that the top price for tickets will be $2, the performances will be within the means of all who love the poetic drama. In addition, Mr. Welles and Mr. Houseman plan to devote Sunday nights to productions of experimental scripts, without scenery. Of course in such a small theatre and at such low prices costs of production will have to be kept down, and lighting will have to be used largely in place of regular scenery, but the experience of these two young men in the production of "Dr. Faustus," which was given almost entirely with lights, will stand them here in good stead.

The project of Mr. Welles and Mr. Houseman is the most stimulating thing that has happened in the New York theatre since Miss Le Gallienne's Civic Repertory Theatre, and there is no reason why it should not grow from its beginning in an intimate theatre to more elaborate proportions. We all know what a vital force the Old Vic has been to the modern English stage, and it is just such a theatre which New York needs today, a theatre where the poetic drama can be played and actors trained in classic acting. If the WPA Theatre Project has done nothing else it has given these two young men an opportunity to feel their powers and try their wings. Now that at last they are to be on their own, without the advantage of taxpayers' money, but with the advantage of being able to choose their actors without regard to whether or not they are in need of financial relief, it is the duty of all who love the theatre to rally back of them. We know already what splendid things they have done; we know that these things are only preliminaries to what they may do. And best of all they are young. The new conditions of the theatre and the competition of the movies can be met only by the imagination and courage of youth.

GRENVILLE VERNON.

Fury over Spain

A MONOTONOUSLY overlong series of shots of the Reds in Spain at warfare, obviously intended to serve as Spanish Red propaganda, with pictorial action and verbal narration attempting to strongly point-up the Loyalist cause. The compilation of mobilization and fighting scenes was made by the propaganda (publicity) offices of the Confederacion Nacional de Trabajo (National Confederation of Labor) and the Federation Anarquista Iberica (Spanish Anarchist Federation). As expected, they try to leave little doubt that the Insurgents are all to blame for the horror and destruction of the Civil War. The Red Loyalist general, Buenaventura Durruti, is shown repeatedly in a favorable position as he prepares his followers for battle. The alleged results are introduced with evidence of pictures of shell-shattered Red buildings and slain Red soldiers and citizens lying on streets and fields.

Borneo

EXPERT technical treatment employed by Truman Talley and Lowell Thomas of the newsreels does the best that can be done with the assembling and editing of pictures taken by the late Martin Johnson and Mrs. Johnson on the last trip taken into the Borneo wilds before Mr. Johnson died in a Pacific Coast plane crash. "Borneo" certainly is no great tribute to the memory of the explorer, for the scenes are neither particularly exciting nor unusually different. The use of sepia tinting, however, does give some pictorial values to the Johnsons' last travels together by plane, canoe and raft. The capture of an orang-utang in its native haunts is the highlight.

JAMES P. CUNNINGHAM.

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Communications

WAGES AND HOURS

St. Paul, Minn.

TO the Editor: Mr. Loftus's article, "Wages and Hours," in the July 30 issue, is highly interesting—in itself, and as revealing a tendency common among present-day economic writers to accept at face value certain unsupported statements of managers of borderline industries.

For example, Mr. Loftus assumes that higher wages mean higher costs. Then he concedes that mechanization means (under compulsion) lower prices. Now, higher wages usually mean lower costs, *pace* General Johnson; and practically no means exists of forcing lower prices when processes are cheapened. (Sometimes mechanization doesn't even cheapen processes.) In all this his main thesis—stated, I believe, in the third paragraph, referring to the inability of commissions to reform matters—is unchallenged.

Assume a series of processes costing, as piecework, $.05. Then assume hour-composite unit rates to be $.03. (The skilled men, we will say, to be at about subsistence level.) Then picture a voluntary raise in wages. Piecework rates go to $.06, and day-labor cost, including supplies, is cut to $.02! Take material into account, and see this comparison, before and after increase:

Piecework	$.05	$.06
Day-labor composite, with supplies	.03	.02
Material	.16	.13
Totals	.24	.21

The answer is, of course, the difference between a satisfied and a disgruntled personnel. Incidentally, it means the difference between $140 and $170 per month; between bare subsistence and the chance to lead a normal life and bring up a family.

Prices are upheld by illegal agreements, and fixed by the least efficient units in an industry—often the largest ones. The "borderline cases" include some of the greatest names listed on the Big Board. During the depression many small plants worked overtime, paid standard wages or better, and made money.

"Quadragesimo Anno" is full of sound business sense. Pius XI's justice and charity need no defense, of course. But justice and charity pay big dividends *vide* Nash and Colonel Callahan and Henry Ford.

What industry needs is to coax the Old Man back from Florida, get him to fire the brother-in-law and the bank boy, and tell him what the men want. Then convince him that the anti-trust laws are to be enforced, and step quickly to one side so as not to be drawn in by the suction. For the ensuing five years will be largely marked by one deep-throated hum, with sixty-hour weeks here and there packed with potential Townsend Associates trying to get caught up. That is, if the rest of us will begin to use the sense that God gave to us, and reform our lives and our buying habits.

J. H. O'HARA.

Books

Courage

The Siege of Alcazar, by Major Geoffrey McNeill-Moss. New York: Alfred A. Knopf. $3.50.

CALVO SOTELO was murdered on July 13, 1936. Four days later occurred the revolt in Spanish Morocco. The Military Governor of the Province of Toledo, Colonel Moscardó, was informed by special messenger as to what was being done. When spokesmen for the Madrid government ordered that the entire stock of munitions in the Toledo Arms Factory be sent at once to the capital, Colonel Moscardó refused to comply with the demands.

At seven o'clock in the morning, July 21, a proclamation was read in the great courtyard of the Alcazar, Moorish fortress and former home of the Christian kings of Castile, declaring that a "state of war" existed in the town and province of Toledo. On the same day, government planes flew over the Alcazar and dropped bombs, killing one soldier. Government troops arrived outside the town. Thus began the terrible siege.

On September 27, the Fifth *bandera* of the Nationalist Legion, which had fought its way up 600 miles from the south, entered the Alcazar and took over its defense from the incredibly emaciated survivors—1,100 men and approximately 500 women—who were possessed of an unconquerable faith in God, in Catholic Spain, and in the civilized way of life.

Major McNeill-Moss knew Toledo and the Alcazar before the siege. He came to know what remains of the fortress "as well as a man knows his own garden." In giving us a vivid and scrupulously exact day-by-day chronicle of events, he was aided by many of the men who endured the siege. He also had at his disposal a diary kept by an officer of the small garrison.

The bombardment of the huge grey fortress which dominates the city of Toledo was almost incessant. The Alcazar began to crumble and fall apart. Breeches were made in the thick walls. The southwest corner was mined and immediately after the terrific explosion, a mass attack was launched. The Reds were brave; but this assault, as so many others, was hurled back by men who had somehow managed to survive on daily rations of a morsel of bread, a bit of horse or mule flesh and a thimbleful of filthy water. Near the end of the terrible ordeal, they were so weak that they had to be hoisted on pulleys to their stations. But their sublime faith in those things most of us believe in never wavered.

We are grateful to Major McNeill-Moss for preserving for this generation and for posterity the history of a military episode "that ranks with Thermopole." In a special chapter and appendix the author presents conclusive evidence that there were no massacres following the capture of Badajoz by Nationalist troops en route to Toledo. The book contains sixty-three excellent illustrations and three maps. It is the August choice of the Catholic Book Club.

JOHN J. O'CONNOR.

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Light Verse

Conversation at Midnight, by Edna St. Vincent Millay. New York: Harper and Brothers. $2.00.

FAILURE to distinguish between form in poetry and that inner essence which can be called the soul of a fine art, is basically responsible for the chaos to which many modern poets have succumbed. For in the search for an art "of the times" the emphasis on poetic form has been overstressed and those qualities which really provide the common denominator have either been unrecognized or ignored. The result of the procedure lends point to the cynical definition: "If it isn't prose, then it must be poetry." And if this definition is accepted, "Conversation at Midnight" falls into the category of poetry. But considering poetry as an art with definite norms which must be observed, Miss Millay's latest book can at best only justify the stature of light verse.

Those who have in the past admired Miss Millay's work, particularly her technically flawless sonnets, will at once recognize the present volume as a distinct departure from the traditional in form. That departure need not be deplored *per se;* but appraised through consideration of the goal reached, the latter is not worthy of the poet's talent. The work can be divided into two classifications: set sonnet pieces liberally scattered in prevailingly long lines of questionable rhythm rhymed *à la* Ogden Nash. Miss Millay's own record should testify to the sonnet's unadaptability to the uses she has here exacted of it, nor does the subject-matter, save in occasional passages, justify the Nash method.

The book purports to be a realistic report of the talk of seven men in stag session. Without the fillip of a prominent name plus a certain singularity that the stunt was ever undertaken, the "conversation" would very probably never have been published. The seven men are typed and they speak nothing more nor less than one expects from their types, although a Vanity Fair glitter, as in the discussions on women, may occasionally lend mock brilliance. No significance is distilled. Her seven men provide a conflict between fundamental philosophies and ideologies; but more than the establishment of the conflict is necessary. The poet's function is to delve beneath the surface and to unearth truths which none but the poet could discover. One can scarcely expect from Miss Millay's philosophic background an unprejudiced and universally acceptable resolution but the fact that she attempts nothing of this kind only illustrates the aptness of the book's characterization as an unsuccessfully attempted *tour de force.*

JOHN GILLAND BRUNINI.

Confusion of Thought

Eve's Doctor, by Signe Toksvig. New York: Harcourt, Brace and Company. $2.50.

AS A NOVEL this book is of no importance. Some of its situations are preposterous, and its hero, Dr. Michael Murrough, a Dublin gynecologist, is described in the same tone of fluttery awe as that used by Ethel M. Dell. But the book has interest for its account of a maternity hospital and for its attack on Irish Catholicism.

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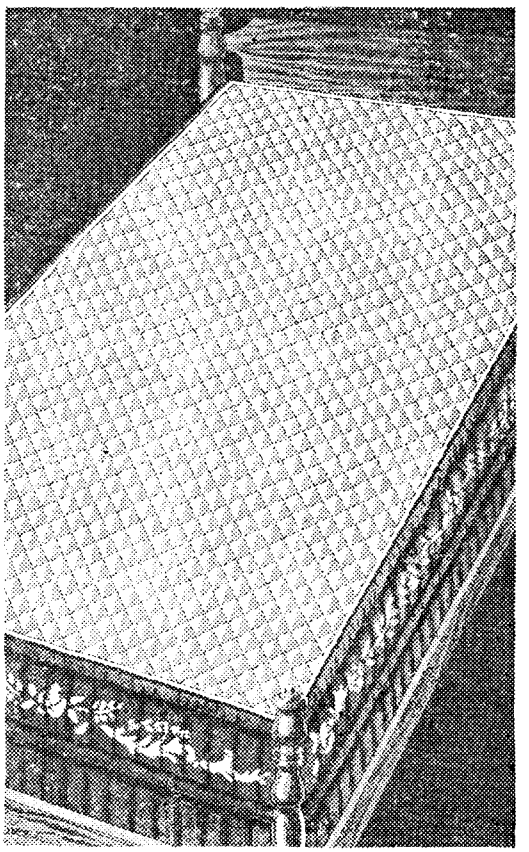

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No doubt there is such a type as Dr. O'Rourke, Murrough's assistant, full of venom which he mistakes for religious principle, envious, bitter and suspicious. There is unfortunately such a type as Father Cooley. The Irish must be admitted to be morbidly resentful of any kind of criticism; and perhaps it is true that there prevails among them to a greater degree than elsewhere "the hatred of the second-rate for the first-rate." But as a picture of modern Ireland "Eve's Doctor" is very unjust.

Miss Toksvig's fundamental error, however, is in thinking that the Church identifies sex with sin. That individuals are to be found, in Ireland as elsewhere, who do have this idea is true enough. But it is Jansenism, not Catholicism. Miss Toksvig's confusion of thought on this point invalidates her whole thesis. And the same confusion is found in Miss Toksvig's moral concepts. Because Mrs. Bolt was not a very pleasant person Dr. Murrough, by making her his mistress, was not behaving quite properly. But because the heroine, Kate Ellison, was a rather nice young woman, adultery in her case is represented as a beautiful idyll. It is a little odd, too, one so well versed in medical knowledge should think that monogamy (when it occurs among humans) rests upon biology rather than ethics. A knowledge of human nature would have set her right on the last point.

JOHN KENNETH MERTON.

Witty Commentaries

Small Talk, by Harold Nicolson. New York: Harcourt, Brace and Company. $2.00.

HUMOROUSLY told, "Small Talk" includes many fine points that Americans could well interest themselves in for a better understanding of the other English-speaking nation. Mr. Nicolson brings this to the fore in dealing with the differences in humor, our much trampled male, some traits in our character, and his "Vision of America."

His essays range over all manner of human endeavors, and his thoughts are expressed in brief and striking passages. "A Defense of Shyness" is characteristic, and ably serves as a key to the rest. Herein he set his claws for all those who follow the regimentation of the idea of self-assurance, for he claims, "The boy or girl who is not shy at twenty-two will be at forty-two a bore." Another highlight of the book is "The Edwardian Week-end." In this essay people act so totally different from the pleasure-seekers of our times, that the contrast told in his amusing style makes the subject a very humorous one.

His slap at efficiency, mirrored in the duel between himself and a tightly wrapped newspaper, is a gem of nonsense. And it is a wonder he did not mention the curse of America, "cellophane," as an outstanding trial to those who are not efficient. How to deal with overwork, your clothes, food, and picking your traveling company are subjects which Mr. Nicolson also deals in. In fact there is not a dull moment in this book of "Small Talk." One owes a debt of gratitude to Harold Nicolson for an entertaining time and many a good laugh.

PHILIP H. WILLIAMS.

Children and Divorce

Nothing Is Safe, by E. M. Delafield. New York: Harper and Brothers. $2.50.

TWO FACTS can be singled out for praise in this novel on the theme of divorce as it directly affects children. The first is that the theme itself is never stressed although always apparent; the second is the thoroughly admirable portrait of Julie, the ten-year-old heroine. The book is written through her eyes and the real tragedy is her inability to remold circumstances. Her endeavor centers around her older brother, a sensitive neurotic. Something of the book's force is lost through the selection of this abnormal character who would be a problem to the most faithful of parents. Again, its moral application to the question of divorce, already limited to those cases which involve children, is further limited by the parents' remarriages. The novel presents excellent character drawing and is quietly humorous when the tragic implications are not too dominant.

Briefer Mention

Industrial Art in England, by Nikolaus Pevsner. New York: The Macmillan Company. $5.00. Interesting and realistic, with good illustrations based on objective research in British industries. It lets you see what the quality of design is and explains the causes of the level of style in various businesses. A book for artists, designers, teachers and consumers, and practically stimulating for business men.

"Dear Mr. President," by Ben Whitehurst. New York: E. P. Dutton and Company. $1.00. A remarkably illiterate group of letters from the 2,000 to 7,000 daily received by the President, Mrs. Roosevelt, and high officials. Most of them are funny but all reflect the remarkable hold President Roosevelt has on the people.

Red Terror in Madrid, by Luis De Fonteriz. New York: Longmans, Green and Company. $1.25. A factual eye-witness account of "murder-gone-mad" in the Spanish capital during the first six months of the Civil War. Estimated number of people murdered: 50,000. Extreme Left elements looted the city, "sequestrated" businesses, factories, shops.

The Life of Saint Rose, by Marian Storm. Santa Fe, New Mexico: Writers' Editions. $4.00. Admirably written biography of the heroic young patroness of Lima and the New World, the first American saint and the only American woman saint. Her holiness was won and maintained in spite of a difficult family life from which, after one attempt, she never again sought to escape.

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